Pet Shop of Horrors

1

Matsuri Akino

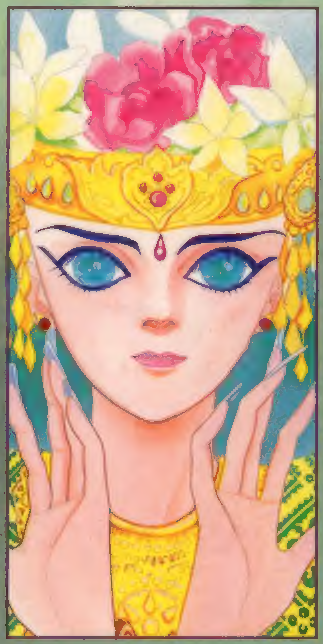
TOKYOPOP

TOKYOPOP

Manga
Horror
USA $9.99

Pet Shop of Horrors™

•Welcome to Chinatown! During your visit, be sure to stop by Count D's pet shop, where love and dreams are sold in the form of mythical creatures—but not without a catch. The buyer must adhere to a set of rules, which if broken, may result in death...or worse.



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Pet Shop of Horrors™

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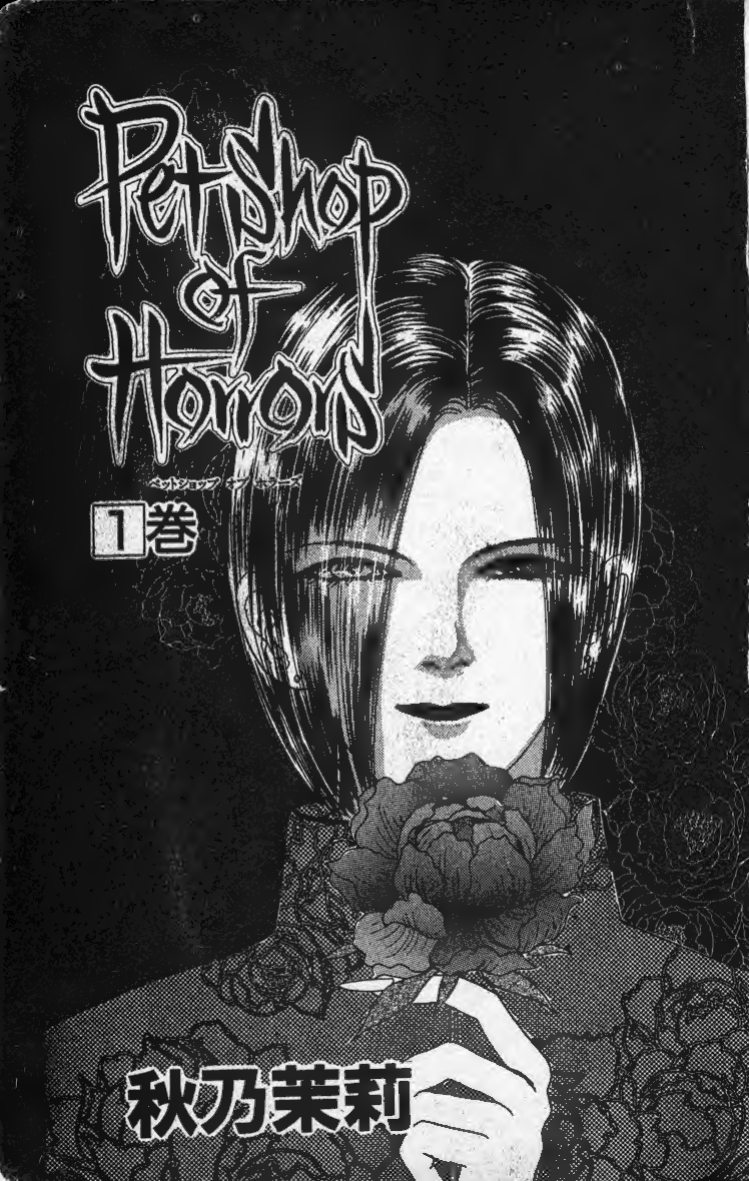
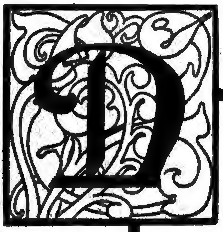

Pet Shop of Horors
ペットショップ オブ ホラーズ
1巻
秋乃茉莉



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第1話／Dream
Petshop of Horrors
ペットショップ・オブ・ホラーズ

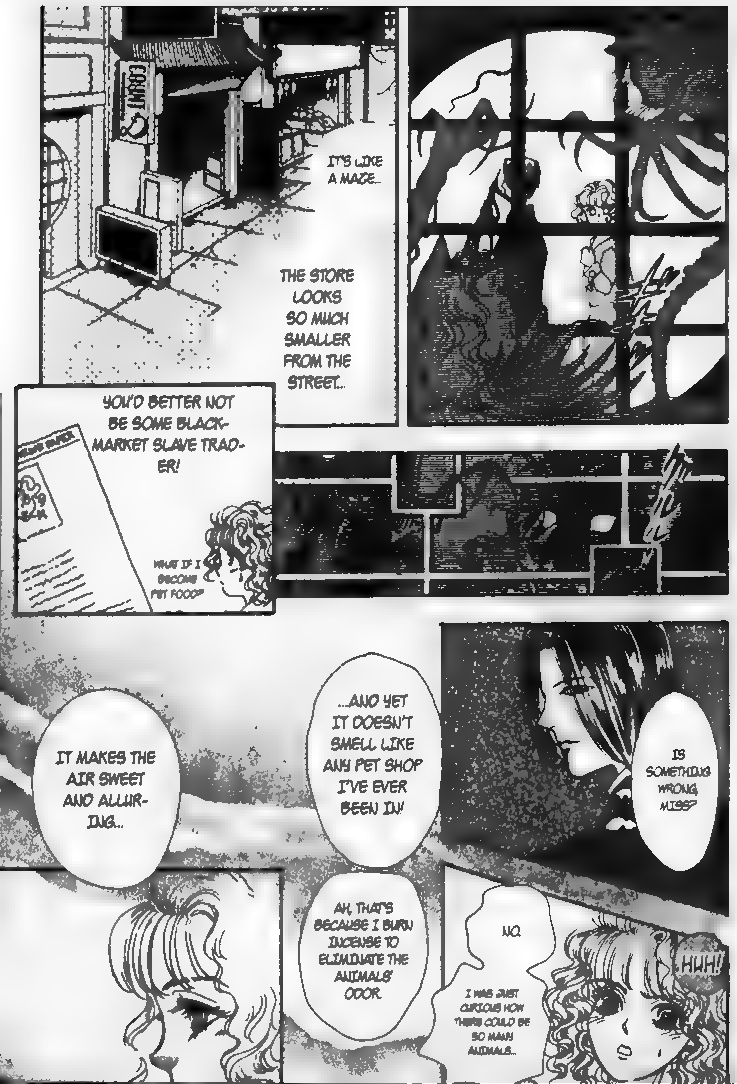
PLEASE KEEP IN MIND...IF YOU DO NOT ADHERE TO EACH POINT OF THE CONTRACT, THEN THIS STORE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSE-QUENCES.
AH, AT LAST! MY DREAM IS FINALLY BECOMING A REALITY!
THEN IF YOU WOULD JUST SIGN HERE...
YES, YES, I UNDER-STAND!
DON'T TAKE IT INTO THE LIGHT...
DON'T EXPOSE IT TO WATER...
AND NO FEEDING IT AFTER MIDNIGHT... RIGHT?
KEW, KEW!
WELL THEN...
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT.

CHEE!
CHEE!
OH MY, LOOK AT THE TIME.
I GUESS WE SHOULD CALL IT A DAY THEN, SHALL WE?
?
MISS ANGELICA!
PLEASE HOLD ON, MISS ANGELICA!!
SHUT UP! JUST GO HOME!
SACCHI

WELCOME.
IS THIS THE PET SHOP OWNED BY COUNT O?
ARE YOU... THE COUNT?
NO.
I AM NOTHING MORE THAN THE STORE MANAGER.
MY GRAND-FATHER WAS THE LAST COUNT IN THE FAMILY...
...AND THAT GRANDFATHER IS TRAVELING ABROAD, CONDUCTING BUSINESS AROUND THE WORLD.

YOU BE QUIET! YOU WERE THE ONE WHO FOUND OUT THERE WAS A PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN THAT ONLY CARRIED THE MOST EXOTIC ANIMALS.
MISS ANGELICA--
OH...
WELL, THAT DOESN'T MATTER...
I'M LOOKING FOR A BIRD! GIVE ME A BIRD THAT'S SO RARE THAT IT'S THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND!
WELL, ANYWAY, ONE THAT'S MUCH MORE EXPENSIVE AND IMPRESSIVE THAN THAT BIRD THAT CONCEITED JANET HAS...
IT MUST HAVE FEATHERS AS PRETTY AS A PEACOCK'S ...
SING LIKE A CANARY AND... AND...
DAD?
HA! WHY WOULD HE CARE?
MONEY IS NO OBJECT!
I'M NOT A BUSINESS COLLEAGUE! I'M NOT ONE OF HIS TRAMPS! I'M INVISIBLE TO HIM!
ALL HE CARES ABOUT IS THE COMPANY AND HIS NEW GIRL-FRIEND!
MISS, YOUR FATHER WILL BE UPSET--

WHERE?
WHICH ONE ?
PLEASE, FOLLOW ME
ACTUALLY WE ARE UNABLE TO KEEP IT OUT ON DISPLAY
REALLY?!
AH, VERY WELL THEN
JUST THE OTHER DAY WE RECEIVED A BIRD THAT MAY BE TO YOUR LIKING
OH--SIR, I WILL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO WAIT HERE
MISS--


COUNT
IT'S LIKE A MAZE...
THE STORE LOOKS SO MUCH SMALLER FROM THE STREET...
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE SOME BLACK-MARKET SLAVE TRADER!
WHAT IF I BECOME PET FOOD?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, MISS?
...AND YET IT DOESN'T SMELL LIKE ANY PET SHOP I'VE EVER BEEN IN!
IT MAKES THE AIR SWEET AND ALLURING...
AH, THAT'S BECAUSE I BURN INCENSE TO ELIMINATE THE ANIMALS' ODOR.
NO.
I WAS JUST CURIOUS HOW THERE COULD BE SO MANY ANIMALS...
HWH!

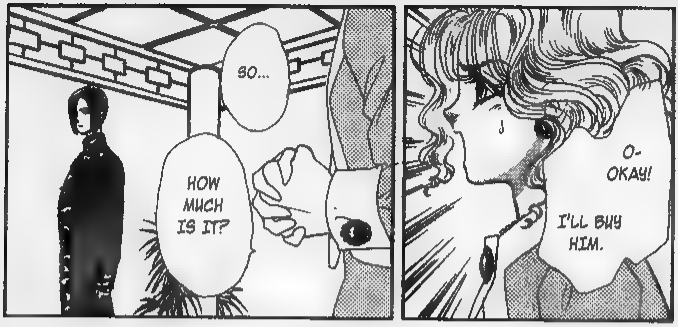
THIS WAY
AH, THERE IT IS
WHAT?!
I DON'T WANT TO SCARE IT BY TURNING ON THE LIGHTS
THE FLAPPING
IT SOUNDS LIKES A LARGE BIRD

BUT... THAT .
LOOKS LIKE A HUMAN...

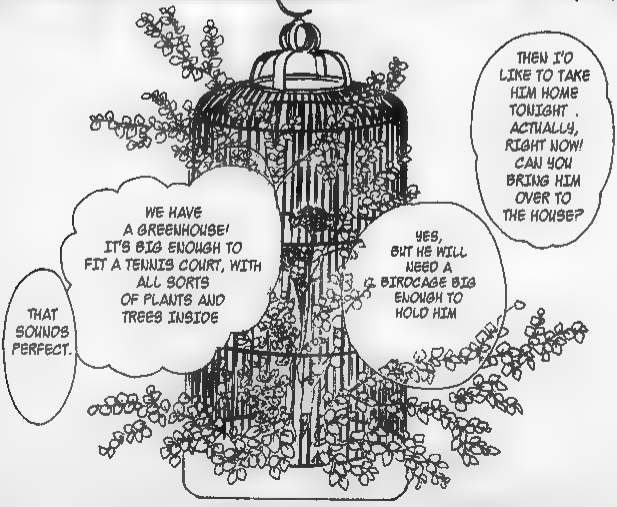
WHAT?!
IS THIS POSSIBLE?!
THIS BIRD COMES FROM THE SOUTH A DESERTED ISLAND IN THE FAR SOUTHERN SEAS
IT'S CALLED A STRELITZIA

THIS IS CHINATOWN.
A PLACE OF MYSTERY AND DESIRE
IT SINGS?
AND A PRESENCE AS GORGEOUS AS ITS
IT HAS A VOICE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY SONG-BIRD'S
IT'S AN EXTREMELY RARE BIRD--VERY FEW HAVE EVER EXISTED
YOU WILL NOT FIND IT LISTED IN ANY BOOKS

HOW DOES IT SOUND?!
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S NOCTURNAL.
IT WILL ONLY SING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT
BUT I GUARANTEE HIS VOICE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL
AS LEGEND HAS IT
KINGS WOULD COME TOGETHER TO DINE AND DRINK...
AND WATCH THESE BIRDS DUEL WITH POISONOUS SNAKES
DUEL?
IF THE BIRD SANG WELL ENOUGH, THE SNAKE WOULD BECOME ENTRANCED WITH THE SOUND AND FALL ASLEEP
BUT IF THE BIRD'S SONG FALTERED FOR EVEN A FRACTION OF A SECOND
THIS ONE IS THE LAST MALE OF ITS KIND


SO...
HOW MUCH IS IT?
O-OKAY!
I'LL BUY HIM.

ONCE YOU ARE SURE YOU WILL BE COMPLETELY SATISFIED, YOU CAN MAKE YOUR PAYMENT
YOU MAY PAY AFTER YOU HAVE HEARD HIS VOICE.


THEN I'D LIKE TO TAKE HIM HOME TONIGHT. ACTUALLY, RIGHT NOW! CAN YOU BRING HIM OVER TO THE HOUSE?
WE HAVE A GREENHOUSE! IT'S BIG ENOUGH TO FIT A TENNIS COURT, WITH ALL SORTS OF PLANTS AND TREES INSIDE
YES, BUT HE WILL NEED A BIRDCAGE BIG ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM
THAT SOUNDS PERFECT.

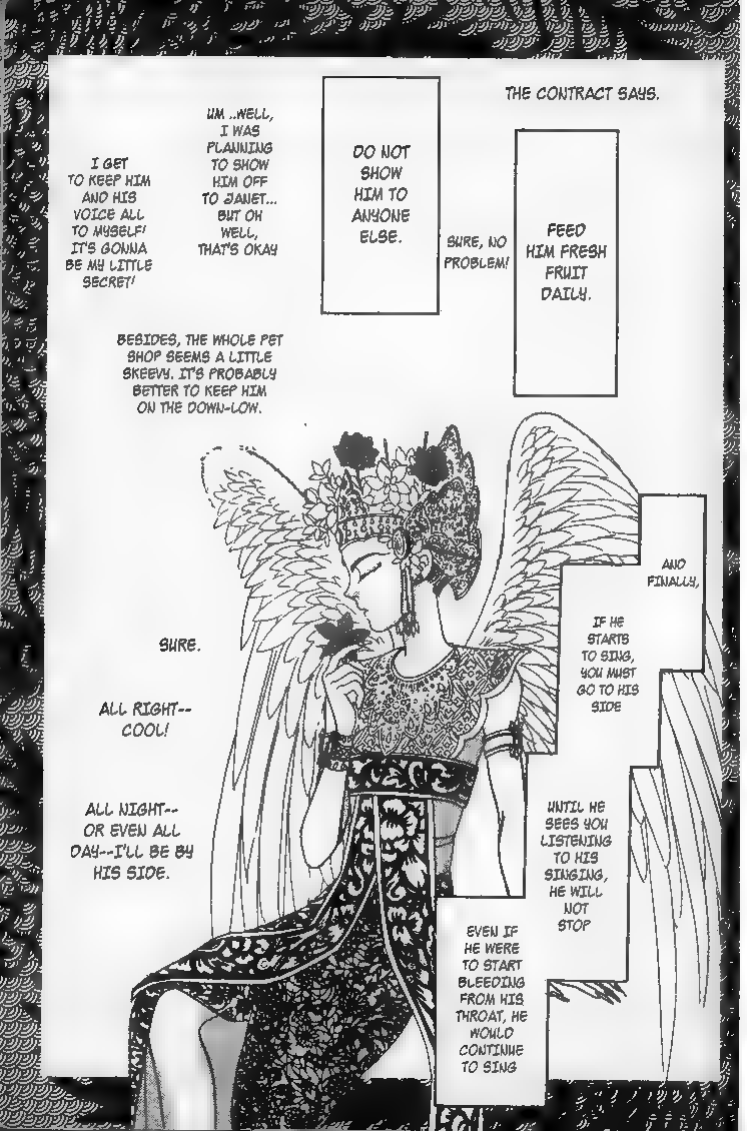
WELL?
IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT
WHEN IS HE GOING TO SING?
NOW, NOW, BE PATIENT
HEY THAT'S THAT INCENSE FROM THE STORE
HE'S A VERY DELICATE CREATURE
WE MUST ALLOW HIM TIME TO ADAPT TO HIS NEW SURROUNDINGS.

POUR
DU...
POUR
DU...
PLEASE!
LET ME
ANSWER!

HE'S SINGING!
HE'S SINGING OH MY!
I-I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYTHING SO BEAUTIFUL!

. .THIS BIRD IS VERY SENSITIVE AND WILL NOT SING AT ALL IF HE DOES NOT FEEL FAVORABLE TOWARD HIS OWNER.
YOU SEE ..
THEN I GUESS I PASSED THE TEST?
IT SEEMS HE IS QUITE PLEASED WITH YOU.
YES
NOW, IF YOU WILL, PLEASE SIGN THIS CONTRACT..
Angelica
ANGELICA
HE'S AS BEAUTIFUL AS HIS SINGING
OH, AND PLEASE READ THE DOCUMENT VERY CAREFULLY AND FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR HIS CARE
OKAY, NO PROBLEM.
IF YOU DO BREACH ONE OF THE CLAUSES OF THIS CONTRACT, WE CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF FOR ANY REASON A TRAGIC ACCIDENT SHOULD OCCUR TO THE PET AND/OR ITS OWNER
OKAY, GOT IT
WELL THEN.
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT
I WILL LEAVE THE INCENSE AS A BONUS

TEN PLATES OF MADAME SEE'S FRUIT TARTS.
THE LARGE ONES.
HUH?
WELL, THEN...
OH YES, RIGHT...
CHEE!
WAIT! WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY?
THE KIND WITH THE RED AND GREEN FILLING, ANGELICA.
IF YOU WOULD, PLEASE HAVE THEM SENT TO THE PET SHOP TOMORROW
GOOD NIGHT
Angelica Winston


I GET TO KEEP HIM AND HIS VOICE ALL TO MYSELF! IT'S GONNA BE MY LITTLE SECRET!
UM ..WELL, I WAS PLANNING TO SHOW HIM OFF TO JANET... BUT OH WELL, THAT'S OKAY
DO NOT SHOW HIM TO ANYONE ELSE.
SURE, NO PROBLEM!
THE CONTRACT SAYS.
FEED HIM FRESH FRUIT DAILY.
BESIDES, THE WHOLE PET SHOP SEEMS A LITTLE SKEEVY. IT'S PROBABLY BETTER TO KEEP HIM ON THE DOWN-LOW.
SURE.
ALL RIGHT-- COOL!
ALL NIGHT-- OR EVEN ALL DAY--I'LL BE BY HIS SIDE.
AND FINALLY,
IF HE STARTS TO SING, YOU MUST GO TO HIS SIDE
UNTIL HE SEES YOU LISTENING TO HIS SINGING, HE WILL NOT STOP
EVEN IF HE WERE TO START BLEEDING FROM HIS THROAT, HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SING

I WISH I COULD LISTEN ALL DAY...
HIS VOICE...
THE NOTES...
HIGH AND LOW...
YET VERY SOOTHING...
THE FOREIGN WORDS IN THE MELODY...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY MEAN BUT IT MAKES MY HEART ACHE.

WHY...
WHY AM I IN TEARS?
BECAUSE IT'S A LOVE SONG.
COUNT D

HE USES HIS SONG TO ATTRACT HIS MATE
AND SHOWS HIS LOVE WITH THAT SWEET MELODY
THE MALE SPREADS HIS WINGS
TOO SWEET!
HAVE SOME TEA
LOVE?
THE MALES ALL TURN INTO TALENTED ARTISTS WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING A PROPOSAL.
BIRDS, INSECTS, FISH, MAMMALS...
THEIR EFFORTS AT TIMES ARE REMARKABLE
PROPOSAL?
FOR ME...?
...BUT I'M A HUMAN. .
. AND HE'S A BIRD RIGHT?

THEN HE'S NEVER SEEN HIS PARENTS?
THAT IS CORRECT
THIS IS THE WINGED RABBIT, Q-CHAU
HE WAS BORN UNDER THE CARE OF A BREEDER AND WAS RAISED BY HUMANS.
PERHAPS HE THINKS HE TOO IS HUMAN
AND SINCE HE HAS NEVER SEEN HIS OWN KIND. .
YET HE KNOWS THE SONG THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION BY HIS FAMILY, NEVER MISSING A WORD OR NOTE. WITHOUT A SINGLE OFF-NOTE, HE SINGS THE SONG WITH THE SAME WORDS AND PHRASES.
HE PICTURES IN HIS MIND THE BROTHERS HE HAS YET TO SEE.
HE YEARNS FOR THE SKIES OF HIS HOMELAND, WHICH HE'S NEVER SEEN
AND SO HE SINGS HIS SONG OF LOVE.

...BUT FOR HIS FAMILY.
THE FEELINGS IN HIS SONG...
...ARE NOT FOR ME...
HELP ME!!
THOSE THINGS YOU SOLD ME HAVE BITTEN MY GRANDCHILD'S FINGER OFF!
PLUS, THEY KEEP MULTIPLYING! THEY'RE TEARING THIS PLACE APART!
YES?
AH, MR GLENN THANK YOU FOR THE OTHER DAY
WHAT?
RRR
EXCUSE ME
SIR
DID YOU PERHAPS BREAK ONE OF THE AGREEMENTS IN THE CONTRACT?
WELL KIND OF
BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE A BIG DEAL!

WHAT HAPPENED?
AHH !!
RING

AHHH!
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY..
NO, WAIT! PLEASE!!
UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE WILL NOT BEAR ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT HAPPENS.
AS I MENTIONED WHEN YOU SIGNED THE CONTRACT..

P-CHAN!
IN OUR HOUSE, ALL OUR BIRDS ARE CALLED THAT
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU GIVEN HIM A NAME?

WHAT AN ORDINARY NAME

OH
IT'S NOTHING TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH

MISS!
YOUR FATHER HAS COME HOME
REALLY?
GO ON, SEE FOR YOURSELF!
DADDY!
OH, MY DEAR ANGELICA, HAVE YOU BEEN A GOOD GIRL?
OF COURSE.
HA HA HA HA! HAVE YOU BEEN GOING TO SCHOOL AND STUDYING HARD?
OH DADDY, I'M NOT A KID ANY-MORE..
HEY! COME ON... I WASN'T THAT BAD!
SHE'S CALMED DOWN LATELY
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE SHE'S GONE OUT TO A PARTY OR RUN OFF ON ANOTHER CRAZY SHOPPING SPREE
HER ENTIRE ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED SINCE GETTING THAT BIRD
BIRD?
HEY!
YES, SHE SAID SHE BOUGHT IT IN CHINATOWN SHE KEEPS IT HIDDEN AWAY IN THE GREENHOUSE.

NO, DADDY!
HE'S ONLY BONDED TO ME!
REALLY, IS THAT SO? I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS BIRD FOR MYSELF THEN
SHE'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF IT ALL BY HERSELF
SHE WON'T EVEN LET US GO INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE!
HAVING HIM IN THE FAMILY COULD MEAN A LOT FOR OUR COMPANY'S FUTURE
HE'S THE SON OF AN IMPORTANT BUSINESS ASSOCIATE THERE'S A BIT OF AN AGE DIFFERENCE, BUT
I WANT YOU TO GO OUT TO DINNER NEXT WEEK WITH SOMEONE YOU'LL BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME WITH
WELL, THEN MAYBE I SHOULD TELL YOU NOW
WHAT?
HA HA HA! OH, IS THAT SO?
YOU'RE ALREADY AT THAT AGE, HUH?
IT'S FOR THE GOOD OF THE BUSINESS, DEAR
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
ANGEL-ICA..

HOW COULD I MARRY SOMEONE I DON'T EVEN KNOW?
WHY?
WHY, DADDY? WHY?!
I'D RATHER DIE!!

P-CHAN...
ARE YOU...
...TRYING TO CHEER ME UP?
IF YOU COULD...
...WOULD YOU WANT TO SEE...
...YOUR TRUE LOVE?

OH PLEASE-- HE'S SO LONELY ..
HE NEEDS A WIFE
THEY CAN HAVE KIDS AND A FAMILY.
WOULDN'T THAT BE WONDERFUL?
YOU'D LIKE TO HAVE A FEMALE?
DO YOU INTEND TO KEEP THEM AS A PAIR?
OH
BUT HE WAS BORN THIS WAY, RIGHT?
IT SHOULD BE FINE.
THE BREEDING PROCESS IS...
..EXTREMELY DIFFICULT.
NO... YOU SEE, IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF PROBLEM
FINE. I'LL GET YOU SO PLATES OF THE FRUIT TARTS AND A HUNDRED MOON CAKES. HOW ABOUT THAT?
THE FEMALE BIRDS ARE AN EXTREMELY RARE ANIMAL AND
BUT...
WHAT NOW?

ONE YEAR'S WORTH OF PENINSULA CHOCOLATE!!
IT TOOK YOU AWHILE, DIDN'T IT?
FEMALES HAVE A SHORT LIFE SPAN AND ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND.
I'VE HAD TO MAKE SEVERAL UNDER-THE-TABLE ARRANGEMENTS TO GET YOU WHAT YOU WANT.
HEE
C'MON, I WANT TO SEE HER FACE.

...
WOW, I..
THOUGHT SHE WOULD BE MORE
ONLY THE MALES HAVE TO BE ATTRACTIVE
THE FEMALES DON'T EVEN SING.
SO THEY'RE LESS POPULAR AS PETS
BUT SHE IS STILL OF THE SAME SPECIES...
AND CAN BE A BRIDE.
OF COURSE, IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHETHER THEY'RE COMPATIBLE
AND NOW FOR THE MEETING!
SHH!

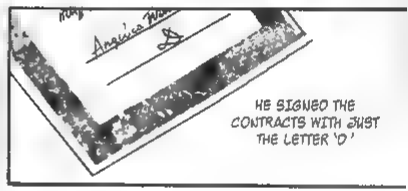
IT SEEMS SHE'S MADE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION
I GUESS SO

I THINK
NO, IT'S NOT THAT...
WHAT'S WRONG? DO YOU REGRET GETTING THE FEMALE?
THIS IS PROBABLY HOW A MOTHER WOULD FEEL.
WELL THEN, HERE'S A NEW CONTRACT
Angelica Nunez
OH, AND FOR ONE WEEK, STARTING TODAY, YOU MUST NOT ENTER THIS GREENHOUSE
WHAT?
AND YOU DON'T NEED TO FEED THEM AT ALL.
THAT IS THE AGREEMENT THIS TIME.
A MOTHER IS NOT NEEDED ON A HONEYMOON
OH...I SEE

CHEE!
IF YOU THINK YOU'LL BE LONELY FOR THE WEEK, I WILL LEND YOU THIS LITTLE ONE
REMEMBER, YOU MUST NOT SO MUCH AS PEEK INTO THE GREENHOUSE
IT'S BEEN THREE DAYS.
BUT YOU'RE NOT SINGING FOR ME ANYMORE, ARE YOU?

D...
DA...
DARK...
DARKER...
DRAC...?
DRAGON...
DESTINY...

A SUSPICIOUS STOREKEEPER OF A SUSPICIOUS PET SHOP IN CHINATOWN...
WITH A VERY SUSPICIOUS SMILE!
HMM, BUT I WONDER WHO THAT GUY IS


HE SIGNED THE CONTRACTS WITH JUST THE LETTER 'D'

I WONDER WHAT THE D IN COUNT D STANDS FOR ?
DRACULA? .. YEAH, RIGHT
HEY, YOU SEEM TO HAVE SOME BAT-LIKE TRAITS

SIX DAYS...
...AND THE DEMONS WHO STALKED YESTERDAY!
HELL...
DEATH...
DREAM

I WAS TOLD NOT TO FEED THEM FOR THE WEEK, BUT...
THEY HAVE TO BE HUNGRY.
JUST ONE MORE DAY
HEY, DON'T WORRY
I'M JUST GONNA GO DROP THIS OFF
CHEE!
CHEE!
BUT..!!
JUST ONE MORE DAY
Sun Monday 27

P
P-CHAN ?

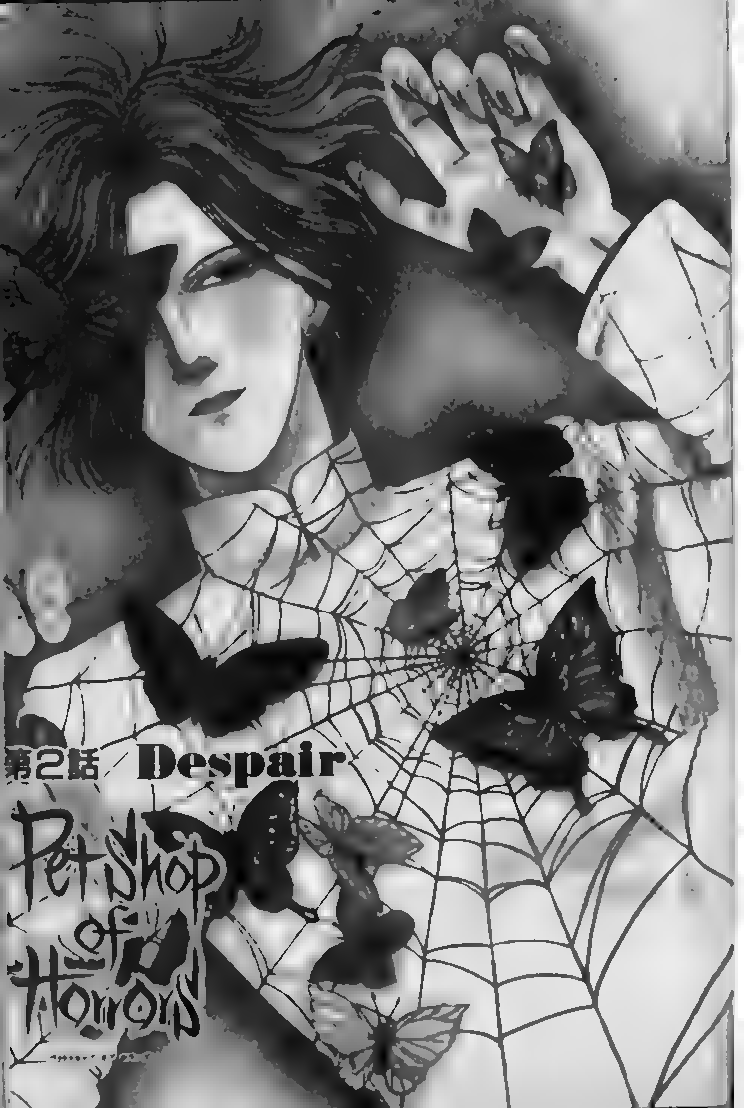
SNIFF SNIFF
Y--
HOW--
HOW COULD YOU!!
AHH!
HOW DID THIS?!
YOU!!

HOW COULD YOU!!
O!!
DON'T STOP ME! SHE--
SHE ATE P-CHAN! HER OWN LOVER!
THIS ACT IS IN THEIR NATURE

THIS IS HOW THEY PASS ON LIFE TO THE NEXT GENERATION
BA-BABY?
THE MALE IS DESTINED TO BECOME FOOD FOR THE FUTURE BABY
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO SEE SUCH A MISERABLE SIGHT ..
IF YOU HAD WAITED ONE MORE DAY TO STEP IN..
BUT..
BUT UNTIL JUST YESTERDAY I COULD HEAR THE SINGING...
SINGING?

FIRST HIS HAND
THEN HIS FEET WERE TAKEN
BUT HE MUST HAVE STILL BEEN ALIVE
EVEN IF HE HAD ONLY HIS HEAD LEFT
HE WOULD HAVE KEPT SINGING
FOR
ME ?

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SIR
HOW IS THE GREEN IGUANA DOING?
AH
HE'S FINE
BUT LATELY I'VE BEEN GETTING TIRED OF REPTILES
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING DIFFERENT?
YES, ACTUALLY WE JUST GOT SOMETHING THIS MORNING
BUT DUE TO SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES WE CAN'T SHOW IT FOR DISPLAY IN THE FRONT
PLEASE SHOW ME!


第2話 Despair
Pet Shop of Horrors

YOU'D KNOW HIM IF YOU SAW HIM IN COSTUME HE PLAYED A SMALL PART IN SPACE WARS III.
OHH...
OH, MAN. THIS GUY'S ROBIN HENDRIX
WHO?

ANYWAY, I DON'T SEE ANY OBVIOUS WOUNDS.
THE ROOM SEEMS CLEAN, BUT NOT TOO CLEAN
YOU THINK IT WAS NATURAL CAUSES?
I DON'T KNOW SOMEONE WAS HERE WITH HIM--SEE THE TWO GLASSES?
PLUS THE MAKEUP.
WE SHOULD SEE IF WE CAN LIFT SOME PRINTS
HE HAD A CAMEO AS AN ALIEN PRINCE AND INSTANTLY BECAME A CULT CELEBRITY
OH, THAT GUY? WELL, THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO THAT FLICK'S GOTTA BE AT LEAST TEN YEARS OLD
HMM?
A LIZARD...?!

NOTHEVE
WHAT A NICE, NORMAL BIRD
WHOA!
I'M SORRY
CHEE! CHEE!
WELL THEN...
PLEASE TAKE CARE GOOD CARE OF IT
I WILL!!
OUR STORE OFFERS A WIDE RANGE OF ANIMALS-- FROM SMALL CATS AND DOGS TO BIRDS, INSECTS AND EVEN AMPHIBIANS.
WEL-COME
HOW CAN I BE OF SERVICE TODAY?

SURELY YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS
WE WOULD NOT CARRY SUCH A DANGEROUS SPECIES AT OUR STORE
..
ONE WITH VENOM STRONG ENOUGH TO KILL A MAN.
I WANT A LIZARD
I AM THE STORE'S CARETAKER IN HIS ABSENCE
I'M SORRY, BUT MY GRANDFATHER IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY
I'M OFFICER ORCOT. WHERE'S THE OWNER?
I WANT TO TALK TO WHOEVER'S IN CHARGE.
I SAW THAT ON THE NEWS
VERY SAD WHEN ONE DIES SO YOUNG
ROBIN ?
OH, YES !
SO YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SOLD ROBIN HENDRIX A LIZARD?

WELL, SIR, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THE SAME LIZARD, THEN IT GETS A LITTLE COMPLICATED-- MR HENDRIX PURCHASED SEVERAL LIZARDS
IF MEMORY SERVES, HE'S BOUGHT AT LEAST 20 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF LIZARDS FROM US!
THIS ONE--
THIS LARGE WHITE ONE WAS LYING DEAD NEXT TO THE BODY
DEAD ..?!
OH, MY...
HOW COULD THIS
YOU SEE...
THERE'S ONLY SO MANY OF THIS SPECIES LEFT IN THE WORLD...
SIGH...
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE CORPSE AND THE OTHER CREATURES AS WELL.
FINE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL FORENSICS IS DONE WITH THE WHITE ONE
GET A LOAD OF THIS GUY! A MAN'S DEAD, AND HE'S ALL DISTRAUGHT OVER A LIZARD?

CHEE?
AND IF THEY HAPPEN TO FIND OUT THAT IT WAS POISONOUS...
THIS PET SHOP'LL BE SHUT DOWN BY THE END OF THE WEEK.
HOW RUDE!
WE ARE A BUSINESS THAT DEALS IN LOVE AND DREAMS
...NOT TOXIC OR DANGEROUS CREATURES.
"LOVE"? THE ONLY THING THIS GUY LOVES IS HIS OWN VOICE!
HMM, DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED, OFFICER? A BIRD.
BIRD?!
THE LAST THING I NEED IS A CAGE TO CLEAN!
ACTUALLY, I MEANT THAT YOU SHOULD CRUSH THE BONES AND EAT THEM
A SHORT TEMPER IS A SIGN OF A CALCIUM DEFICIENCY

WHERE DOES HE GET OFF--?!!
LAUGHING AT ME LIKE I'M A MORON!
THAT ARROGANT --!
YO, MAN, WHAT'S GOT YOUR BOXERS IN A BUNCH?
HERE. THE FORENSICS REPORT.
NO WOUNDS, NO TRACES OF DRUGS...
THE MAKEUP AND ACCESSORIES BELONGED TO HIS WIFE, BUT SHE HAS A SOLID ALIBI...
AND IT'S NOT LIKE A DEAD CAREER EQUALS A DEAD GUY
SO BASICALLY IT'S A HEART ATTACK
JUST ANOTHER UNFORTUNATE TURN OF FATE.
WAIT.
WHAT ABOUT THE LIZARD?

WANTED
IT'S HARD ENOUGH DEALING WITH STORES IN CHINATOWN AS IT IS
WE CAN'T CHARGE THE PET SHOP IF WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS
I MEAN, THERE'S NO RECORD OF IT ANYWHERE
THEY SAY IT'S A NEW SPECIES
WELL, THERE WAS NO TRACE OF TOXINS IN THE LIZARD
BUT
NO WAY
AND THE ONLY THING THAT TIES THEM ALL TOGETHER IS THAT PET SHOP EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM SHOPPED THERE!!
ALL THESE FREAK, RANDOM DEATHS
IT'S NOT JUST THE HENDRIX CASE
ALMOST ALL THE REALLY ODD INCIDENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS
THE FAMILY THAT WAS CHEWED UP TO DEATH
THE GUY THAT WAS DRAINED OF ALL HIS BLOOD...

A COINCIDENCE PI...
UH-UH. I DON'T BUY IT.
THAT SHOPKEEPER IS HIDING SOMETHING... I JUST KNOW IT!
CHEE! CHEE!
AS I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT HENDRIX
NO.
ACTUALLY, TODAY I JUST CAME BY TO DELIVER THE BODY YOU REQUESTED.
REMEMBER, REGULAR TACTICS DON'T WORK WITH PEOPLE IN CHINATOWN. IF THEY PUSH, YOU PULL.

THIS IS INCREDIBLE!! TO GET THESE YOU HAVE TO LINE UP BEFORE THE STORE OPENS BECAUSE THEY ONLY SELL 30 PIECES A DAY!
REALLY?
OH MY GOD, THAT AROMA!
COUNT D JUST LOOOOVES SWEETS, DON'T YA KNOW...
WELL, THAT WAS VERY KIND OF YOU
THANK YOU
WHAT THE ? WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY!
YES, YES. I WILL TELL YOU ANYTHING.
YOU'RE A LOT NICER THAN I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR, OFFICER
CAN NEVER WAKE UP EARLY ENOUGH TO GET THEM.
HERE, THIS IS FOR YOU
IT'S NOT MUCH BUT
OH, AND I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING ELSE, TOO.
IF YOU'RE REALLY LOOKING FOR MY THOUGHTS ON THE CASE
...I BELIEVE ROBIN WAS KILLED BY A GHOST.

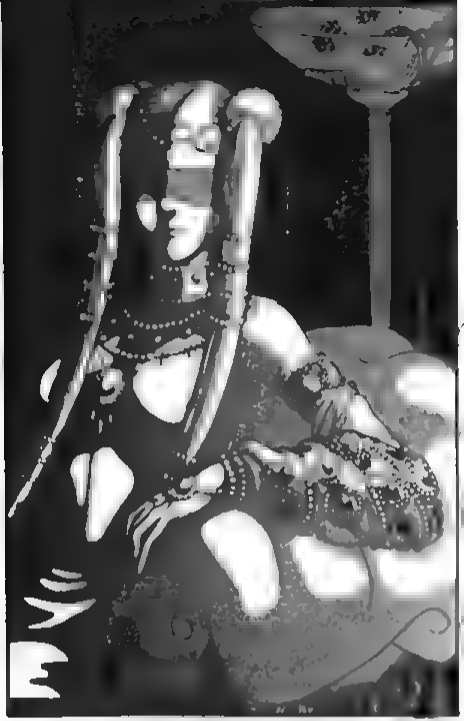
THAT'S BRILLIANT! IF WE JUST CLOSE EVERY CASE THAT DOESN'T HAVE AN OBVIOUS CULPRIT AND BLAME A GHOST, I COULD RETIRE TOMORROW!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING SO UPSET?
A GHOST?!
NO...
WHAT I MEAN IS...
MAYBE ROBIN HAD BECOME A GHOST.
HUH?
TEN YEARS AGO, THE PART OF THE ALIEN PRINCE WAS A PERFECT ROLE FOR ROBIN.
HAIR THAT SHONE LIKE PLATINUM...
EYES THAT SHONE LIKE GLASS...
ONE WHO DIED FOR HIS PLANET...
HIS PRETTY FACE AND THE CHARACTER'S NOBLE SACRIFICE MADE HIM A STAR.

HA! SO YOU'RE SAYING HE WAS JUST A PRETTY BOY AND A BAD ACTOR
A FADING STAR
BUT AFTER THAT ROBIN WAS NOT GIVEN ANY BETTER ROLES OR SHOULD I SAY
HE HIT A GLASS CEILING, ONE THAT HIS LOOKS AND CHARM COULD NOT OVERCOME
ROBIN WAS HAUNTED
BY THE GHOST OF THE PRINCE
THE ROLE WAS HIS GREATEST VICTORY
AND MOST DEVASTATING DEFEAT

IT WAS ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO...
HEY, COUNT.
WELCOME, YOUR HIGHNESS.
AH, C'MON.
I'M NO PRINCE
I'M SORRY
YOU JUST HAVE THAT AIR ABOUT YOU.
EXCUSE ME, I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT
DIDN'T YOU PROMISE YOUR WIFE THAT YOU'D HOLD OFF ON GETTING ANY MORE PETS?
YOU CAME TO PICK UP THE USUAL FOOD?
ACTUALLY, I CAME FOR ANOTHER PET.
IF POSSIBLE, SOMETHING DIFFERENT
ACTUALLY IT JUST SO HAPPENS..
...THAT SHE LEFT ME.

IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S UNSANITARY OR ANYTHING!
THAT'S NOT THE POINT!
DON'T PUT ANY FOOD FOR YOUR PETS IN THE REFRIGERATOR!!
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU!!!
ROBIN!!!
YOU SHOULD JUST MARRY ONE OF YOUR SNAKES OR LIZARDS!!!
YOU CAN'T LIVE OFF YOUR PAST FAME!
YOU JUST SIT AROUND ALL DAY! WHEN WAS YOUR LAST JOB?
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANY-MORE!!
YOUR HIGHNESS. .
NOW MY PETS HAVE FREE REIN OF THE HOUSE. .
SO THERE YOU GO.

GIVEN YOUR NEW SITUATION
I THINK I HAVE THE PERFECT ADDITION TO YOUR HOUSEHOLD
THIS WAY, PLEASE
キィィ…



WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IS THIS A JOKE?
JUST BECAUSE MY WIFE LEFT ME DOESN'T MEAN

THIS IS A LIZARD
..MAKES IT EVEN MORE UNIQUE
IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE OF BASILISK
AND ITS ALBINO SKIN

WHY DON'T YOU FIND OUT
...BY TAKING HER HAND AND FEELING HER TOUCH?
AM I DREAMING?!
AH...
I CAN FEEL IT.
THE COLD SKIN THAT PULLS YOU TO IT.

AND THOSE WHO MET HER GAZE WOULD BE TURNED TO STONE.
THAT'S MEDUSA!

I HAVE ONLY SPOKEN THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER
WAS HE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME TYPE OF DRUG?
FIRST OF ALL, HOW COULD THE LIZARD LOOK LIKE A WOMAN?
AT THE TIME, ROBIN SAID ALMOST THE SAME THING
YOU THINK I'M GOING TO SWALLOW THAT STORY?
WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO BELIEVE IT IS UP TO YOU
IT SEEMED THAT SHE FOUND HIM TO HER LIKING AS WELL
IF THEY WERE BOTH HAPPY WITH THE ARRANGEMENT, THEN WHO WAS I TO DENY THE PAIR?
SO ROBIN ENDED UP BUYING THAT LIZARD, HUH?
YES

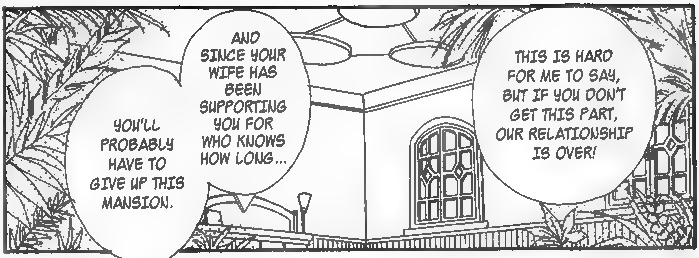
I HAVE THE CONTRACT HERE
IT'S A REAL SIGNATURE
NOT A PARTICULARLY INSANE PRICE, EITHER
THERE WERE THREE SPECIAL CLAUSES.
ALWAYS PROVIDE HER WITH FRESH FRUITS OR LIVE FOOD
DO NOT SHOW HER TO ANYONE.
DO NOT LOOK AT HER EYES.
IF ANY OF THESE RULES WERE BROKEN, WE WOULD NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHATEVER MIGHT OCCUR
ISN'T THAT WHAT IS STATED THERE?

IS IT GOOD, MEDUSA?
EVEN THOUGH SHE DOESN'T SPEAK...
SHE'S STILL BETTER THAN THAT ANNOYING, NOISY WOMAN.

YOU COULD NOT LIVE IF I DIDN'T PROTECT YOU.
AND BEST OF ALL,
SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ME.
SHE CAN'T SEE, SO SHE'S NOT JUST SMITTEN WITH MY APPEARANCE...
AND SHE'S NOT ONE OF MY WEIRDO FANS.
SO, MEDUSA, AS I DO FOR YOU,
PLEASE LIVE FOR ME.

YOUR MANAGER, ALBERT!
OPEN UP, ROBIN!
HEY! IT'S ME!
WHA--?!
WHAT THE--?!
THIS PLACE IS A FREAKING JUNGLE!
YOU'VE FINALLY LOST IT! ALL YOUR PETS ARE RUNNING LOOSE!
WHAT?
BE CAREFUL WHERE YOU WALK. THERE WAS A PYTHON TAKING A NAP THERE EARLIER
OH! HEY, YOU HAVE SOME MICE! THEY'RE KINDA CUTE
YEAH, SOMETHING LIKE THESE
UH, ROBIN. REPTILES ARE COOL TOO, BUT . DON'T YOU HAVE, LIKE, DOGS OR CATS OR ANYTHING MORE CUDDLY?
THERE ARE SOME CRICKETS, TOO
ACTUALLY, THAT'S FOOD FOR THE SNAKES
...

SO WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, AL?
OH, YEAH! RIGHT!
NEXT WEEK THERE'S GONNA BE AUDITIONS FOR A NEW FILM DIRECTED BY THAT GUY, MILLER. I THINK I CAN GET YOU IN.
AUDITION?
ME...?!
WITH A BUNCH OF AMATEURS?
FOR THAT PUNY ROLE?!
ROBIN...
JOBS WON'T KEEP COMING IF YOU JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR THEM
YOU GET IT, RIGHT?
YOU CAN'T BE THE PRINCE FOREVER.
THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST CHANCE.


THIS IS HARD FOR ME TO SAY, BUT IF YOU DON'T GET THIS PART, OUR RELATIONSHIP IS OVER!
AND SINCE YOUR WIFE HAS BEEN SUPPORTING YOU FOR WHO KNOWS HOW LONG...
YOU'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO GIVE UP THIS MANSION.

WELL, IF YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES, GIMME A RING.

IF THAT HAPPENS, YOU'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR REPTILES

WHAT?!

MEDUSA...
...TO PART WITH YOU
...UP?
GIVE YOU GUYS...
I CAN'T DO IT.
I WOULD STARVE TO DEATH ON THE STREET BEFORE I'D...
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN TAKE CARE OF YOU
I WILL PROVIDE FOR YOU...
MEDUSA...
YOUR FOOD...
YOUR JEWELRY...

WHAT?? I THOUGHT HE RETIRED?
HEY, ISN'T THAT ROBIN HENDRIX?
MAN, HE'S GOOD-LOOKING...
HEY...
ROBIN'S STILL GOT IT GOIN' ON!
MAYBE A LITTLE FEAR WAS A GOOD THING
HEY, THIS IS GREAT, ROBIN!
YOU MADE IT TO THE FINAL ROUND!
NOW THEY WON'T CALL YOU "OLD-TIMER PRINCE" OR "HAS-BEEN" ANYMORE.
OH, I DIDN'T MEAN
DON'T WORRY IT DOESN'T FAZE ME

HEY, THAT'S TOBY HIMER.
HE STARTED OFF IN MUSICALS AND IS STARTING TO GAIN A FOLLOWING
DON'T LOSE TO HIM, ALL RIGHT?
MEDUSA...
...THIS IS ALL FOR YOU.
STANDING IN THE SPOTLIGHT AGAIN...
...MAKES ME FEEL ALIVE
I'M NOT USED TO COMPETING, BUT...
...I FEEL PRETTY GOOD ABOUT MYSELF RIGHT NOW.

OKAY, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME, GENTLEMEN BUT UNFORTUNATELY, I CAN ONLY CHOOSE ONE OF YOU.
THE PART OF THE TERRORIST GOES TO MR. MICHAEL PAGE
DAMN IT!
HE'S FROM ONE OF THOSE KOOKY RELIGIOUS GROUPS.
HE PROBABLY BRIBED HIS WAY IN AND--
ROBIN... THERE'S ALWAYS A NEXT TIME WE'LL TRY AGAIN.
NO, IT'S OKAY.
THIS WAS MY LAST CHANCE

I DIDN'T GET THE PART
MEDUSA

I'M A PATHETIC MAN WHO COULDN'T EVEN PROTECT YOU.
I'M SORRY

DO YOU DESPISE ME FOR THAT?
TO BE HONEST...
I KEPT WISHING THAT THE OTHER ACTORS WOULD DISAPPEAR.
...OR EVEN DIE.
GET INTO AN ACCIDENT.
BUT THAT WOULD MEAN SHOWING YOU TO SOMEONE ELSE.
I CAN'T DO THAT...
I WONDERED IF WHAT D SAID WAS TRUE..
IF YOUR EYES REALLY COULD TURN MEN INTO STONE .
I WON'T LET ANYONE SEE OR TOUCH YOU.
YOU ARE MINE.

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, MEDUSA.
LET'S HAVE A DRINK.
IT'S A LITTLE SILLY, BUT WE SHOULD CELEBRATE.

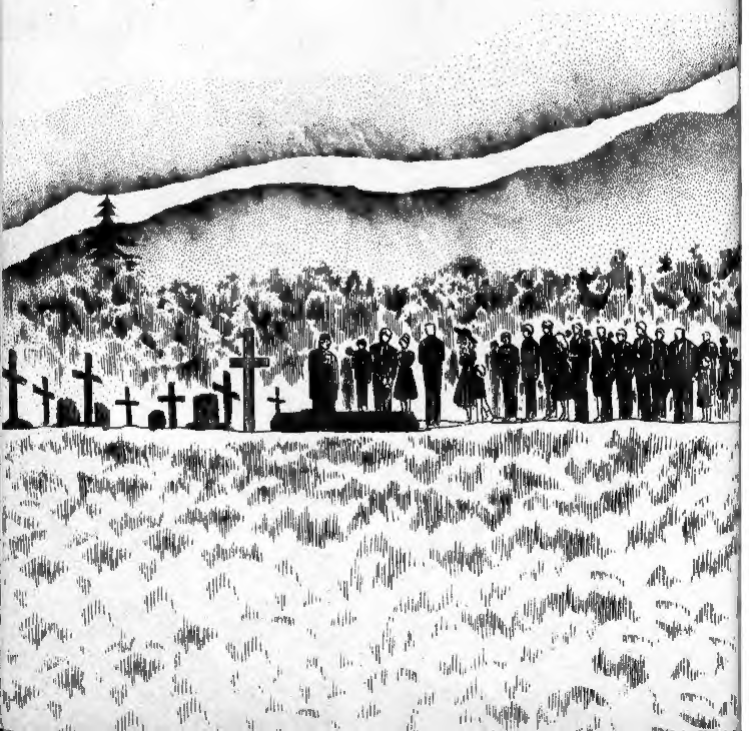
TODAY IS OUR ANNIVERSARY.
. AND

THAT'S CRAZY!!
THAT WOULD MAKE IT SUICIDE!!
WHO'S GOING TO BELIEVE A LIZARD COULD KILL A PERSON WITH A STARE...?!
HE DIED BY LOOKING INTO HER EYES...
IT'S ENTIRELY UP TO YOU WHETHER YOU BELIEVE IT, BUT .
THAT ALSO MEANS..
...THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT WOULD IMPLICATE OUR STORE . CORRECT?

ACTUALLY, HER ACTIONS SURPRISED EVEN ME..
WHY DID SHE DIE?!
WHAT ABOUT MEDUSA?
I'M ALL TURNED AROUND...
WAIT A MINUTE
UHHH...
WHAT SHE SAW AFTER OPENING HER EYES FOR THE FIRST TIME WAS THE BODY OF THE MAN SHE LOVED
AND HER LOVING GAZE HAD SPELLED HIS END
...THAT SHE'D LOOK IN THE MIRROR
I NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED ..

SO THEN THIS WOULD BE...
...A LOVER'S SUICIDE.
WHAT ROBIN, WHO NEVER REALLY GREW PAST BEING THE PRINCE...
...SAW WITHIN MEDUSA'S EYES...

...WAS NOTHING MORE
THAN THE SWEET
DARKNESS CALLED
DESPAIR.



NOW ROBIN IS FINALLY FREE FROM THE GHOST OF THE PRINCE.
LOT OF GOOD IT DOES HIM NOW...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO BURY THEM TOGETHER.
IT'S MEDUSA'S BONES.
ACTUALLY, THAT'S NOT TRUE.
SEE?
WHAT A TRAGEDY.
ROBIN WAS A PRODIGY! THIS IS A GREAT LOSS FOR THE MOVIE INDUSTRY!
I HEARD HE WAS READY FOR A COMEBACK!
IT'S SO SAD, HE WAS SO YOUNG...
HIS PORTRAYAL OF THE PRINCE WAS MAGNIFICENT!
AND SLOWLY BURN OUT RIGHT IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC EYE...
RATHER THAN LET HIS STAR FADE INTO DARKNESS...

...HE TOOK HIS LIFE, LEAVING HIS STAR GLIMMERING BRIGHTLY...
...AND PRODUCING A LEGEND THAT WILL CONTINUE TO GLOW FOREVER.
END OF EPISODE 2